

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
20 January 2005 (20.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/004797 A2

(51) International Patent Classification:
A61K

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/018463

(22) International Filing Date: 10 June 2004 (10.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/477,561 11 June 2003 (11.06.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

(54) Title: **PHARMACEUTICAL DOSAGE FORMS HAVING OVERT AND COVERT MARKINGS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION**

(57) **Abstract:** Oral solid dosage forms such as tablets having overt, printed or etched markings as well as optional covert markings are disclosed. The markings can be rapidly identified to authenticate a dosage form and/or drug contained therein. The inventive dosage forms include a core portion having sufficiently low friability to receive a printed or etched marking on a surface thereof, and a readable or detectable printed or etched marking on the surface of the core which provides information allowing the identification / authentication of the oral dosage form. In preferred aspects of this embodiment, a bar code, more preferably, a 2D data matrix bar code is printed or etched on a debossed region on the surface of the solid dose form. Methods of preparing the marked dosage forms and methods of identifying and/ or authenticating solid dosage forms are also disclosed.

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